Conversation with white male, Adairville, Kentucky (Transcription)

Begin M17 B (3) CAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN DIALECTS CASSETTE 34 SIDE A The first excerpt is taken from original tape W 87

SUBJECT A: And that does...

SUBJECT B: That does, yeah. That cuts down on a lot of labor of course it adds a little more expense to the crop, but the labor is what wer're trying to cut out on. When you've got, well let's say that you have six or seven acres of fire and (), you can't, if you ain't got the labor on your property, you can't get the labor to pull them suckers off of it.

A: After you've got it cut, how do you get it into the barn?

B: Well, you have trailers, and then this time we had ...

A: Trailers?

B: some, I reckon you call them "trailer scaffolds". In other words a double concern on wheels. We call those (). That's what we usually--the fact is I was, I'd have got caught, I'd have had some () if I hadn't had them two trailer scaffolds--I loaded it on them and pulled it into the barn.

A: Oh, so you () in the barn there.

B: Hanging on that scaffold see, when the weather's hot. But, ().

A: Well, I guess you'd like it on those.

B: Yeah, yeah I was tickled to death. I mean I figured it was the best what I ever made as far as tobacco is concerned.

A: Yeah, now you said that it was there in the field a little bit before they take it into the barn.

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B: Well, it's better to. But assuming that the weather's right it's better to leave it out, say three to four days. I'd rather have it three or four days.

A: Why?

B: Well, it yellows on the scaffold, I'd say () tobacco, it's stay there four days, it'll be all ready for (). Don't you say it'd stay there three or four days? I think it--and then again it don't break up as fast. It houses a lot better. I mean it don't, it keels at the () so it won't break, you know. Fibers and everything.

A: (inaudible)

B: Oh it's awful. This year is a especially bad year. Had a lot of rain, you know, it's awful (), you know. When you first cut, it's a lot of sap in it, you see. And leaving out on that scaffold does get rid of a, quite a bit of that sap, and it makes it not so brittle, you know.

A: How do they refer to that when it's brittle like that?

B: Well, "breaking up", you know, they'll say, "That tobacco's 'breaking-up' bad this time, The leaves are falling off of it." And this year is a bad year for that.

A: Do they say "brickery"?

B: Yeah, something like that.

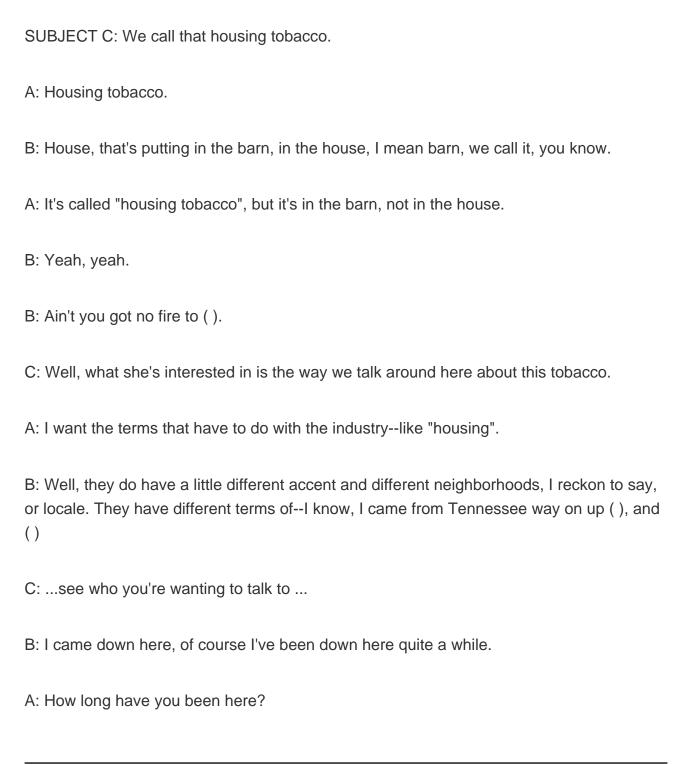
A: How, how's that ...

B: Well, a lot of times-- I'll tell you another thing, because that amount of time, maybe too much nitrogen, or something like that will cause it to be too brickery like that, too, you know.

A: Let me get at this barn. Now, tell me about the barn.

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B: Well, you get to the barn, you've got a, you still ain't through with it when you get it to the barn, especially when it's fired tobacco.



B: Sixteen years. A: And? B: And I was talking to some of the boys here, and they speak of tobacco coming up off the hills, you know. I never heard that expression in my life. C 34 page 4 B: And this boy was telling me they'd have a little "hill" kind of in his tobacco. And I thought that's what he meant, but that wasn't what he meant. A: What did he mean? B: He meant, in other words he said, "Coming in off the hill nice." He made that statement, you know. And I thought he meant just a little hill. But really he meant the tobacco was growing up here and it was coming over, you know. Looking good, you know. C: Well, they used to, is set tobacco on hills. They "hilled" the ground, made a hill, a ridge down through there, and they called it tobacco growing off the hill good. It's spreading out... B: It's spreading out, you know, looking healthy-looking. <gap> What a, actually ... C: Wait a minute, no, no ...

B: I thought he meant those little hills, he was talking about, his (). I thought he was messing with me.

A: But he meant the way it was setting out.

B: Yes.

A: Yeah, that's what I wanted--these different expressions.

B: Well, that, you will find that in different, I noticed of course I hadn't been around too much, before I was raised-up, I never <gap> heard that kind of remark made in my life.

A: Now, you heard that here, though.

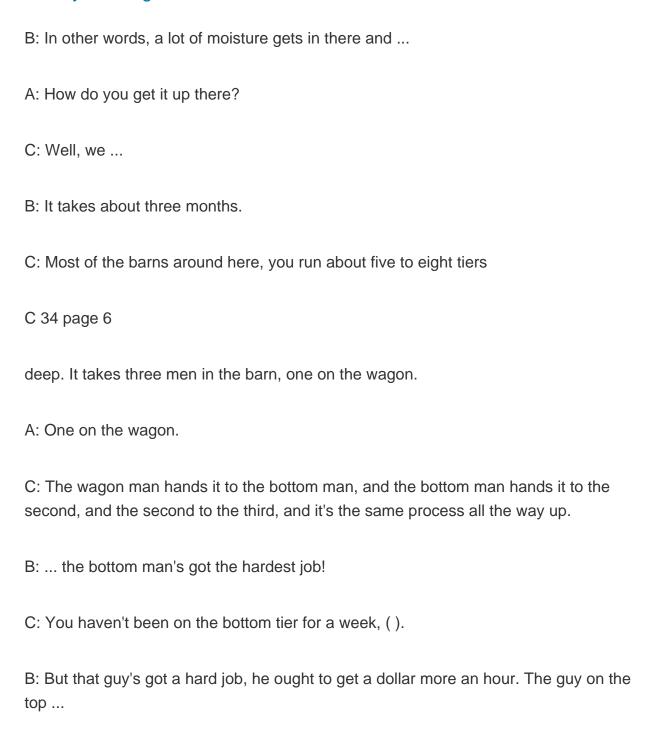
B: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. I tell you, <gap> is the first guy I heard say that. I looked, he said, "What do you think," he said, "that's the way they coming up off of the hill." And I thought he meant "on this little hill," you know. It was in his patch. I

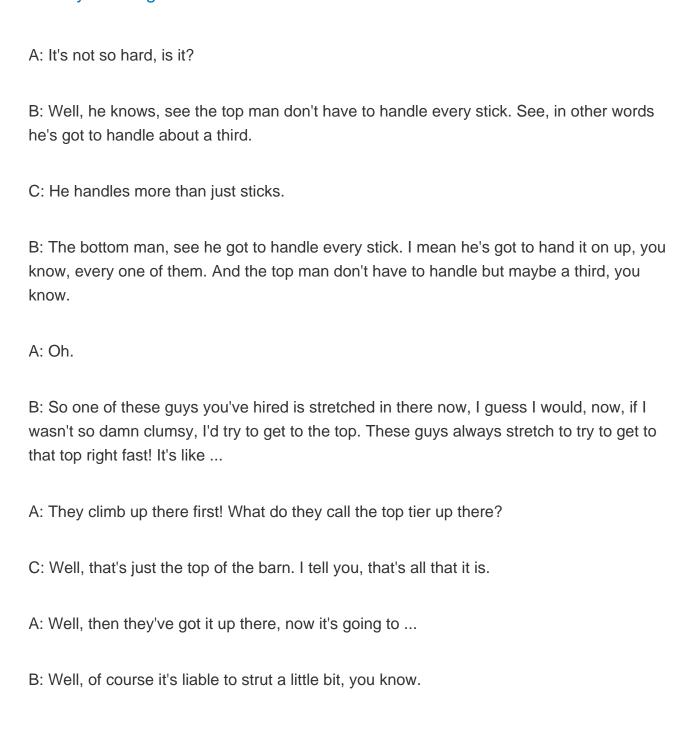
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thought he meant it was doing good in that stuff. For thatch.

A: Now, what expressions do they have when they talk about putting it in the barn, for example. For "curing" <gap> you said? "Kill-down"?

B: Curing, I mean, well, I don't know hardly any. C: Well, there's no expressions, really. We'd say we're housing tobacco and after a while we'd say it's getting ready to "fire". I mean it begins to get yellow and ... B: Strut. That's a ... A: Strut? Now what about that? B: Now today is a day, it's an ideal day for it to "strut". You go in your barn and say, after it gets good and yellow, you know, and you, the way I would, well you really can see, I mean, it's "strutted-out". It needs some fire. It needs some heat or something. I mean it needs something done to it. A: The stems are getting... B: Real strut-out. They'll get a little thick, you know, fat. A: The stems get fat. B: And it'll kind of stand out. In other words you can fan it prove that it's tight. You can't--if it's doing good it's hanging right straight down --it's soft. You know, pliable. A: And the air can circulate, can't it?





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When the humidity is high and raining, and you got that sap in that tobacco. And I would say that using a lot of nitrate and such stuff is, we use, well, we didn't used to use, run into more of that sap in tobacco. And this year is a really bad year for sap. in tobacco. I mean they had a lot of rain.

A: How long do they leave it out there?

B: Oh, I'd say, I guess from now till (). Why they start taking these things down by, let's see,...

C: First week in November.

A: When do they start firing-up? Right away?

C: Firing tobacco, well,...

B: We firing now.

A: After ...

B: I'd say a week. A week after it's in the barn. When it starts to yellowing real good.

A: Oh. Uh-huh.

B: Why, you'll start your fire slow.
A: What do they make the fire in?
B: It's on the ground.
A: On the ground?
B: With wood.
A: You don't have to
B: That's, we was figuring a fire (). Now some (), you know, a lot of times they use coke, or they use
C: Gas.
B: Different, different
A: What do they call that stove they
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B: Coke stove.

